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In re Patent Application of:

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PETITION AND FEE FOR AUTOMATIC EXTENSION OF TIME
UNDER 37 CFR 1.17, 1.136(a) AND 35 USC 41(a)8

Sir:

Applicant hereby petitions the Commissioner for Patents to extend the time for filing a response to the outstanding Office Action by **three months**. Enclosed is our check No. 14395 which includes the amount of **\$475.00** for the petition fee in accordance with 37 CFR 1.17 computed as a response within the third month for a **small entity**.

You are authorized to charge to our Deposit Account No. 15-0700 any additional amounts owing.

If this petition is inadequate to avoid abandonment, the Assistant Commissioner for Patents is petitioned, under 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a), to extend the time by the number of months which will avoid abandonment under 37 C.F.R. §1.135. The fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17 should be charged to our Deposit Account No. 15-0700.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on February 26, 2004:

Respectfully submitted,

Klaus P. Stoffel

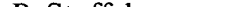
Name of applicant, assignee or
Registered Representative

Signature

February 26, 2004

Date of Signature

JAF:KPS:msd


Klaus P. Stoffel

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